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ACTION ER 87-4059X

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

August 7, 1987

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The Honorable William H. Webster Director of Central Intelligence Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Judge Webster:

ARNOLD L. PUNARO, STAFF DIRECTOR

CARL M SMITH, STAFF DIRECTOR FOR THE MINORITY

Thank you for your letter of July 27th concerning manpower reductions in Defense Agencies required by the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986, particularly the potential effect of such reductions on the Defense Intelligence

One of the major concerns of the Goldwater-Nichols Act was the unconstrained growth in the size and complexity of the defense bureaucracy. The Defense Agencies, which have traditionally not been subject to rigorous top management supervision and control, were a particular focus of this concern. For this reason, manpower reductions were mandated as a means of stimulating careful and comprehensive review of the personnel strengths of the Defense Agencies. At the same time, the Goldwater-Nichols Act gave the Secretary of Defense considerable flexibility in allocating the required manpower reductions. He can exempt specific Defense Agencies or all Defense Agencies as long as the required reductions are allocated to other components of the Department of Defense.

I want to be certain that you understand that the Goldwater-Nichols Act does not require any reduction in the personnel strength of the Defense Intelligence Agency. Any reduction would occur only if the Secretary of Defense determined that some portion of the total manpower cut should be allocated to the Defense Intelligence Agency. Your arguments for an exemption for the Defense Intelligence Agency should, therefore, be directed to the Secretary of Defense, and not to the Congress. Secretary has full authority to grant this exemption. Accordingly, no legislative action is required.

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Your letter raises a second issue: whether namewer reductions should be taken elsewhere in the Department of Defense to compensate for the exemption of the Defense Intelligence Agency. As you may know, on October 1, 1987, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretaries of the Military Departments, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff are each to submit a report to the Congress on the functions and organizational structure of will serve as the basis for determining what modifications to the mandated manpower reductions are justified. Prior to the submission and congressional review of these studies, any changes to the mandated manpower reductions would be premature.

I appreciate your interest in this subject. Your efforts, however, to gain an exemption for the Defense Intelligence Agency should be directed to the Secretary of Defense. I can see no in the Secretary of Defense.

Sincerely,

Sam Nunn Chairman